HIS MAJESTIES
LETTER
AND
DECLARATION
TO THE
SHERIFFES
and CITTY of
LONDON.

January 17. 1642.

Printed, by His MAJESTIES Command,
AT OXFORD, January 18.
By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer
to the University. 1642.

BODL. LIBR.
12 OCT. 1916
OXFORD

His Majesties LETTER AND DECLARATION to the Sheriffes and Citty of London.

January 17. 1642.

TRusty and Welbeloved, We greet you well. We received lately a Petition from the Aldermen and Common-Councell of Our City of *London*, by the hands of Persons entrusted by them for the delivery, who found such a reception from Vs, as well manifested Our regard to that body which sent them; Though We well knew by whom that Petition was framed, and where perused and examined, before it was approved by those from whom it seemed to be sent, yet We were so willing to enter into a correspondence with that Our City, and to receive any addresse and application from them according to that Invitation We had given by Our late Proclamation, And were so glad to find that there

was yet some hopes they would look to the Peace and happineſſe of that City, and at laſt ſever themſelves from any Faction or dependence, which might inſenſibly involve them in thoſe Calamities they did not foreſee, that We returned ſuch a gracious Anſwer thereunto, ſo full of Candor and Affection, that the meaneſt Inhabitant of that Our Citty, if he carefully conſider the ſame, will find himſelfe concerned in it, and that We have had an eſpeciall care of his particular. With this anſwer of Ours We ſent a ſervant of Our own, in the company of thoſe who had been ſo well uſed here, to require and ſee that it might be communicated to the whole body of that Our City; not doubting but that both it & the Bringer ſhould receive ſuch Entertainment there, as might manifeſt their due regard of Vs, & of Our Affection to them: But to Our great wonder, We finde that after ten dayes Attendance, and ſuffering ridiculous Pamphlets to be publiſhed in Our name, as if We retracted Our former Reſolutions, (which Pamphlet We have cauſed to be burned by the hand of the Hangman, as We alſo require you to ſee don) inſtead of that admiſſion We expected to Our Meſſenger and Meſſage, guards of Armed Men have beene brought to keep Our good Subjects, to whom that Our Anſwer was directed, from being preſent at the reading thereof; and Speeches have been made by Strangers (who have been admitted to the Citty Councells, contrary to the Freedome and Cuſtome of thoſe meetings,) to Blaſt Our ſaid Anſwer, and to Diſhonour and Slander Vs, which if Our good Subjects there ſhall ſuffer, We ſhall be much diſcouraged in Our deſired correſpondence with that Our City, and ſo by the cunning and power of thoſe Incendiaries mentioned in Our Anſwer (Alderman *Pennington* who to ſhow his great Loyalty to Vs, and his fitneſſe to

be

bee the chiefe Magistrate of such a City, being informed that a desperate person there, said, that *hee hoped shortly to wash his hands in Our Blood*, refused to send any Warrant, or to give any direction to any Officer for his Apprehension, (*Wen, Fulke*, and *Manwaring*) who have plunged that Our City into such unspeakable Calamities, in which they would still keepe it to cure their owne desperate condition, Our good Subjects there are not suffered to receive Our gratious Answer to that Petition, Wee have therefore thought fit to write these Our Letters to you, requiring you the Sheriffes of Our said City, to take care for the publishing that Our Answer (which Wee herewith send you) to Our good Subjects of that Our City, And Our pleasure is, That you the Masters and Wardens of the severall Companies of our said City forthwith summon all the Members of your severall Companies, with all the Freemen and Apprentises (whose hopes and interests are so much blasted in these generall Distractions) belonging thereunto, to appeare at your severall Halls, where you shall cause Our said Answer, together with these our Letters, to bee publiquely read, that all Our good Subjects may cleerely understand how farre We have beene from begetting, how farre Wee are from continuing or nourishing these unnaturall civill dissentions, and how much it is in their owne power to remove the present pressures, and to establish the future happinesse and glory of that famous City, and may seriously weigh every part of that Our Answer, as well that which carries caution in it for the future, as pardon for what is past, for assure your selves, for the time to come, Wee shall proceed with all severity against such who shall incurre the penalty of the Law in those points, of which wee have given them so faire a warning in Our said An-

ſwer, & whoſoever ſhall not behave himſelfe like a good Subject in this Our Kingdome, ſhall not (if We can helpe it) receive the benefit and advantage of being Our Subject in any other, but all Forraigne Princes ſhall know, that as ſuch Perſon hath parted with his Loyalty to Us, ſo he muſt not hope for any Security by Us, and to that purpoſe Wee ſhall henceforward have a very inquiſitive Eye upon the Actions of all Our Subjects, that ſome example may be made, how eaſie it is for Us to puniſh their diſloyalties abroad, who for a time may avoyd Our Iuſtice at home. And to the end that none of Our good Subjects of that Our City may thinke themſelves bound to obey any of the Orders or Commands of the pretended Lord Major (whom We have and doe ſtill accuſe of high Treaſon, & conſpiring to take Our life from Vs,) it is well knowne to thoſe Citizens who underſtand the Charter of that City (ſo amply granted by Our Royall Progenitors, and ſo gratiouſly confirmed by Us, & of which We preſume Our good Subjects there doe ſtill deſire to receive the benefit,) that the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington* was never regularly elected, or lawfully admitted to bee Lord Major of that Our City, that in truth Alderman *Cordwell*, was by the plurality of voyces choſen, and that this Man was never preſented to, or admitted by Us, in ſuch manner as is preſcribed by the ſaid Charter, neither had that Iudge, who preſumed to ſweare him, any more colour of Law or Authority to adminiſter ſuch an Oath to him, then hee hath to doe the ſame to morrow to any other Alderman of the City: And Wee doe therefore hereby Declare the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington* not to bee Major of that Our City of *London*, and to have no lawfull Authority to exerciſe the ſame, and that Our good Subjects of that Our City, ought not to ſubmit to any Orders, directions,

ctions, or commands which ſhall iſſue from him as Lord Major of that Our City, but that the ſame are void and of none effect. And Wee doe once more require you the Sheriffes of Our ſaid City, and all other the Magiſtrates of the ſame, in which all Our good Subjects of that City will aſſiſt you, that you cauſe the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington*, *Ven*, *Fulke*, and *Manwaring*, to bee apprehended and committed to ſafe Cuſtody, that Wee may proceed againſt them as guilty of high Treaſon, and principall Authours of thoſe Calamities which are now ſo heavy upon Our poore Subjects of that City, and if not ſuddenly remedied, will in a ſhort time utterly confound a Place, and a People lately of ſo flouriſhing an eſtimation in all the parts of Chriſtendome. And whereas We are informed that one *Browne* a Wood-monger, *Titchborne* a Linnen-Draper, and one *Harvy* a Silke-man, have exerciſed great Inſolencies and outrages in that Our City, and when many of Our good Subjects there, have aſſembled together in a peaceable and modeſt manner, to conſult about the Peace and welfare of that City, the ſaid mutinous and ſeditious Perſons have preſumed to lead Multitudes of armed Men againſt them, and by ſuch force have beaten, wounded, and killed Our good Subjects; Our Will and Pleaſure is, that if the ſaid *Browne*, *Titchborne*, and *Harvy*, or either of them, ſhall ſo farre neglect Our gratious offer of Pardon, as ſtill to engage themſelves in thoſe unwarrantable and ſeditious courſes, That you Our Sheriffes of *London*, rayſe power to ſuppreſſe the ſaid force, and that you and all Our Miniſters of Iuſtice, uſe your utmoſt meanes to apprehend the ſaid Perſons, and to bring them to condigne puniſhment. And We doe hereby Declare, That it ſhall be lawfull for any of Our loving Subjects, to reſiſt and oppoſe the ſaid

Perſons,

Persons, if they shall hereafter, in such a Warlike manner, endeavour to molest them as they would doe Rebels and Traytours: And We hope that all Our good Subjects of that Our much injured City of *London*, doe take notice of Our Grace and Favour towards them in our so freely passing by and pardoning the Offences there committed against Us, as Wee have offered by Our Proclamation and Our late Answer, and of Our very earnest desire to bee with them, and to reside amongst them for their Comfort, Support, and Protection, if they shall, by first providing for their owne security (in such manner as We have directed them in Our late Answer) give Us an instance that We may be safe there too. And that they doe likewise observe, that being by such violence kept from them, Wee have done Our utmost endeavour to continue and advance the decayed trading of that Our City, by permitting and encouraging all resort and traffique thither, and therefore if by the stopping of Carriages, and seizing Commodities by other men, the commerce and correspondence be broken betweene that place and Our good Subjects of other Counties, they will impute that mischiefe to the true Authours of it, and looke upon Us onely as not able to helpe them. Doe but your Duties, and this Cloud which threatens a present confusion, will quickly vanish away, and you will enjoy all the Blessings of a happy Nation, to the which no endeavour of Ours shall bee wanting.

Given at Our Court at OXFORD, *this 17. day of* JANUARY. 1642.

FINIS.